INTEGRATED RESOURCE PLAN:
JEAN D'OR PRAIRIE
SUB-REGIONAL PLAN

PLAN
POLICY

Alberta

ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES
Resource Evaluation and Planning Division

1982 Edmonton

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PLANNING TEAM DECISION SHEET

TEAM Jean D'Or Prairie Integrated Resource Plan NUMBER 9

TO Resource Integration Committee DATE October 21, 1982

ITEM

Plan Policy Document.

DECISION/REQUEST

Approval of the document. Direction to proceed with the Plan Design stage of the planning process.

SIGNATURES

Richard Klippenstein, Alberta Agriculture

Edward Ritcey, Alberta Forest Service, E & NR

Robert Shorten, Public Lands Division, E & NR

Robert McFetridge, Fish & Wildlife Division, E & NR

Nico van der Giessen, Alberta Environment

James Rivait, Resource Planning Branch, E & NR

COMMENTS

RESOURCE INTEGRATION COMMITTEE

DATE October 21, 1982

TO: Jean D'Or Prairie Planning Team

ITEM

Plan Policy

BACKGROUND/ATTACHMENTS

Approval of the Plan Policy is required for the planning team to proceed with the next steps of the planning process.

DECISION/DIRECTION/RECOMMENDATION

The Committee approves the Plan Policy.
The team is to proceed with the remaining steps of the planning process.

SIGNATURES

Chairman, Chairman

COMMENTS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

		Page
1.	INTRODUCTION	1
2.	BROAD RESOURCES OBJECTIVES	5
	2.1 Domestic Grazing	5
	2.2 Ecological Resources	5
	2.3 Fisheries	5
	2.4 Historical Resources	6
	2.5 Mineral Resources	6
	2.6 Recreation	6
	2.7 Till Cropping	7
	2.8 Timber	7
	2.9 Water Resources	8
	2.10 Wildlife	8
3.	RESOURCE USE IN THE JEAN D'OR PRAIRIE AREA	9
	3.1 Resource Use Definitions	9
	3.2 Management Intent	11
4.	RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ZONES	12
	4.1 Agriculture Zone	12
	4.2 Multiple Use Zone	13
	4.3 Special Use Zone	13
	4.4 Resource Use / Zone Matrix	13
5.	RESOURCE MANAGEMENT POLICY	15
	5.1 Zoning Configuration	15
6.	CONCLUSION	18

LIST OF MAPS

Map		Page
1	Regional Location of the Jean D'Or Prairie	2
2	Jean D'Or Prairie Study Area	3
3	Resource Management Policy of Jean D'Or Prairie	16

LIST OF TABLES

Table		Page
1	Resource Use / Zone Matrix - Jean D'Or Prairie Area ...	14

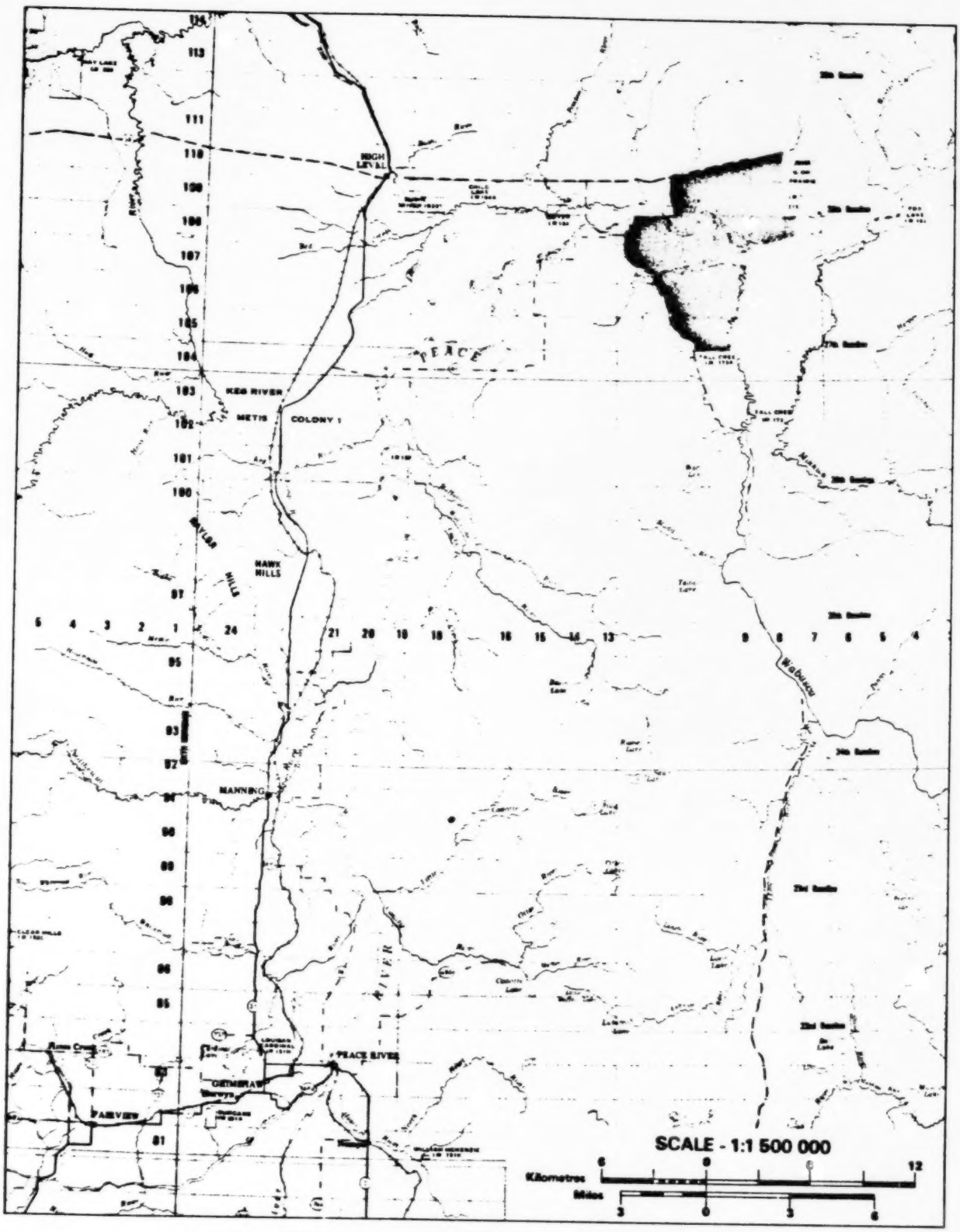
1. INTRODUCTION

The Jean D'Or Prairie area (Figure 1) was identified by The Lower Peace Regional Overview as having potential for agricultural development. Based on that assessment, the Interdepartmental Assistant Deputy Ministers committee identified the Jean D'Or Prairie area as a priority for the development of an integrated resource management plan.

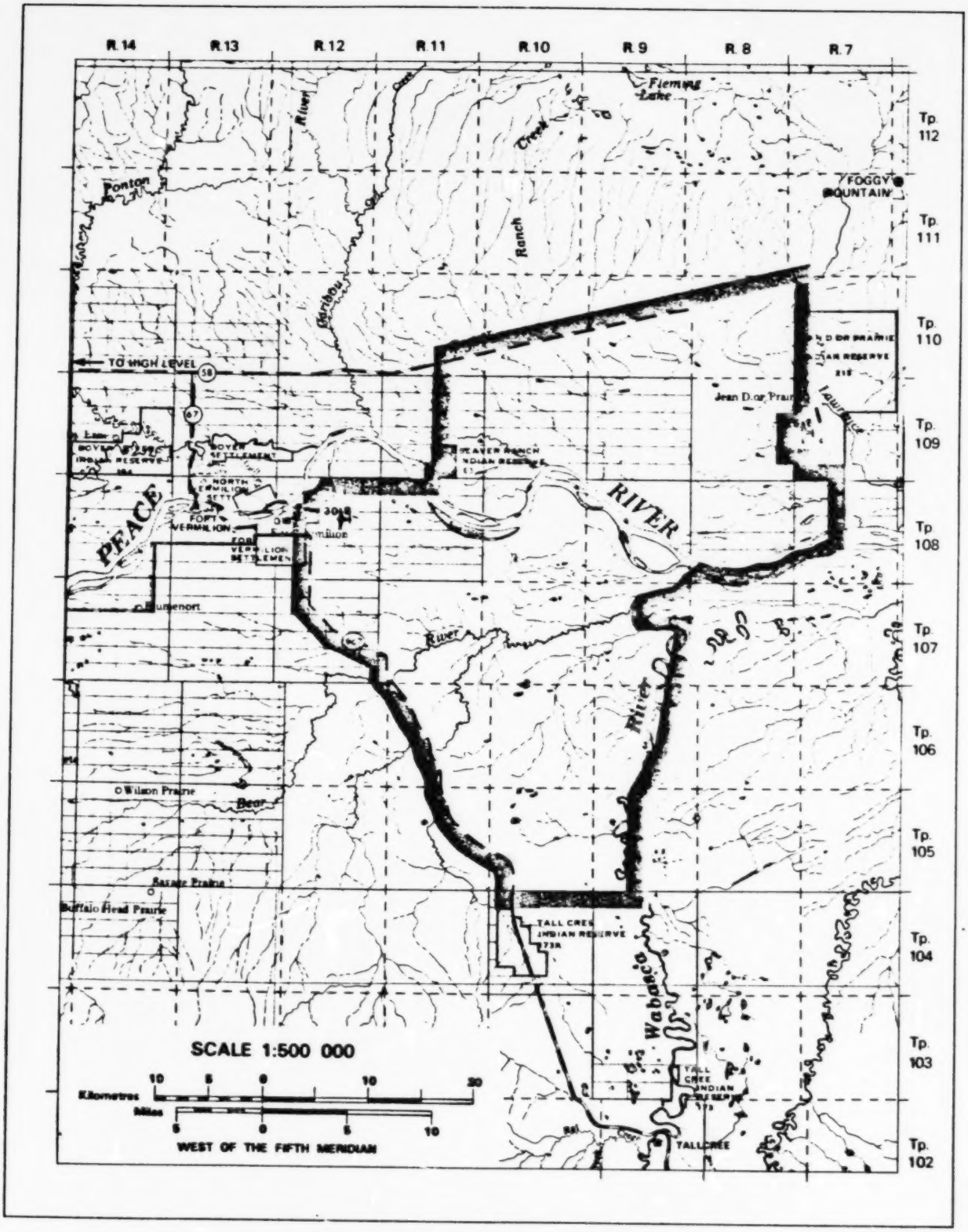
The planning area (Figure 2) is comprised of approximately 150 000 hectares located east of Fort Vermilion, west of the Jean D'Or Prairie Indian Reserve and north of the Tall Cree Indian Reserve. The planning area is bounded by Highway 58 on the north, Highway 67 on the west, Township 105 on the south and the Wabasca River and the Jean D'Or Prairie Indian Reserve on the east.

The management intent of the plan is to identify and make available additional public lands for agricultural use, either by sale or other forms of disposition. The demand is primarily for lands suitable for till cropping and is recognized by the Government of Alberta in the Accelerated Land Sales program.

In achieving this goal, it is important to recognize other resource concerns within the study area. For example, the



Map 1 REGIONAL LOCATION MAP OF JEAN D'OR PRAIRIE



Map 2 JEAN D'OR PRAIRIE STUDY AREA

expansion of agricultural production in the planning area will have definite effects on timber availability, the quantity and quality of habitat conducive to supporting fish and wildlife populations, and watershed management.

Keeping these and other resource concerns in mind, a resource management policy was developed to reflect an optimization of resource uses within the Jean D'Or Prairie area.

This document consists of the following elements:

1) broad resource objectives for the entire planning area;
2) resource uses (and their definitions) projected to take place within the planning area;
3) the management intent for the area;
4) resource management zones used to achieve the management intent of the plan;
5) a resource use/zone matrix;
6) the resource management policy zoning configuration; and
7) a conclusion.

This information does not fulfill the requirements of the final document for the Jean D'Or Prairie Integrated Resource Plan but, rather, the necessary intermediate step leading to the development of Plan Design.

2. BROAD RESOURCE OBJECTIVES

This section of the Plan Policy defines the broad resource objectives which have been established for the planning area. They are expressed as they relate to a particular resource, not to any specific agency. No priority is implied by the order of listing.

2.1 Domestic Grazing

1. To identify areas capable of supporting domestic grazing.
2. To maintain the level of existing range use and, where possible increase domestic grazing use through range improvement.
3. To establish potentials for domestic grazing.

2.2 Ecological Resources

1. To protect both representative and unique areas of the natural environment having provincial significance for recreational, scientific or educational use.

2.3 Fisheries

1. To maintain viable populations of fish species, presently in the Jean D'Or Prairie area, through habitat retention.

2. To design a habitat retention plan in areas designated for agricultural development, which will allow the maintenance or enhancement of fisheries populations.

2.4 Historical Resources

1. To protect historical resources (historic, prehistoric, palaeontological) from potential or actual impact related to future development conflicts, and to manage such resources for scientific, educational and recreational purposes.

2.5 Mineral Resources

1. To encourage the assessment and development of known mineral resources within the Jean D'Or Prairie area.
2. To encourage the exploration and development for unknown mineral resources within the Jean D'Or Prairie area.

2.6 Recreation

1. To maintain and, where possible, increase levels of recreational use that will not conflict with other uses projected for the planning area.
2. To manage and protect the recreation resource allowing public enjoyment of the area with minimal disturbance to the natural aesthetic quality of the environment.

2.7 Till Cropping

1. To supply a measure of the demand for permanent agricultural land expansion (as recognized in the Accelerated Land Sales program) by making available suitable public land with the best capability for agricultural production. Since the demand is primarily for new farm units, first priority of consideration will be given to land capable of supporting new farms and second priority to land capable for farm expansion.

2.8 Timber

1. To regulate the timber resource to sustain and where possible, increase timber harvests while promoting a forest environment of high quality. The necessary permanent forest land base required for timber harvests should not be unduly eroded by other resource uses, not conducive to proper forest management.
2. To perpetuate a stable supply of wood fibre for the province's forest products manufacturing industries through the full utilization of lands capable of producing timber.
3. To protect the forest land base from abiotic and biotic pathogens including the prevention, pre-suppression, detection and suppression of fire and the surveillance of insect and disease infestations to minimize timber losses.
4. The maintenance and, where possible, expansion of present Quota commitments in F5 and F7 and maintenance of Miscellaneous Timber Use (MTU) areas affording local residents a continual supply of timber.

2.9 Water Resources

1. To maintain water quality, quantity and flow regime as it relates to:
   - provision of water for onstream and downstream users;
   - provision of habitat for fish and wildlife populations;
   - provision of quality recreation experiences and
   - minimization of erosion and stream sedimentation.
2. To strike a balance between conflicting needs of different resource users, i.e. problem of drainage (for till cropping) and wetland habitat requirements (for wildlife).

2.10 Wildlife

1. To maintain numbers, distribution and diversity of native wildlife in the Jean D'Or Prairie area through habitat retention.
2. To avoid creating problem wildlife concerns.
3. To design a habitat retention plan in areas designated for agricultural development which will allow the maintenance or enhancement of wildlife populations.

3. RESOURCE USE IN THE JEAN D'OR PRAIRIE AREA

Within the planning area, different resource uses have been taking place and will likely take place in the future. These uses will be identified and defined. Also included in this section of the document is a statement of the management intent that provides the basis for the resource management policy for the Jean D'Or Prairie area.

3.1 Resource Use Definitions

To ensure a common understanding of the resource uses taking place within the planning area, it is necessary to clearly define each use. The resource uses discussed are those presently envisioned to take place within the area. Resource uses taking place within the area are by no means limited to this list. If the resource use does not appear in this document, it will be dealt with by the managing agency at the operational level. The treatment of any resource use would have to be consistent with the intent of the particular resource management zone in which it is to take place.

The resource uses and their definitions are as follows:

Recreation	The use of a land or water base for a wide range of outdoor activities in a natural setting.
Hunting	The stalking and/or killing of any animal for recreational or management purposes.
Fishing	The removal of fish species for any purpose including recreational or commercial use.
Trapping	The activities associated with sustained yield harvest of fur-bearing animals for commercial production of merchantable fur.
Timber Harvesting	The protection, improvement and growth of timber for harvesting, in perpetuity, or liquidation, and all activities associated with the removal and transport of timber for manufacture into forest products.
Till Cropping	All activities associated with the production of crops that result from the tilling of land and harvested by mechanical means.
Domestic Grazing	All activities associated with the production and utilization of forage by domestic livestock.
Petroleum and Natural Gas Exploration Development	All activities and infrastructure associated with exploration, development, and production of petroleum and natural gas resources.
Coal and Minerals Exploration and Development	All activities and infrastructure associated with the exploration, development and production of coal and other non-renewable industrial minerals.
Sand and Gravel Exploration and Development	All activities and infrastructure associated with the exploration, development and production of sand and gravel.

Transportation and Utility Corridors	Linear corridors established for utilities and roads, and to provide access for resource use and development.
Commercial Development	All activities and infrastructure associated with the development of facilities to service the general public.
Residential	All activities and infrastructure associated with housing for residence and/or recreational purposes.
Industrial Development	All activities and infrastructure associated with the development of an industrial base to accommodate and service the extraction, removal or processing of any resources.

3.2 Management Intent

The intent of the plan is to make available additional public lands for agricultural expansion. This demand is mainly for lands suitable for till cropping but there is a latent demand for domestic grazing. It is important to note that agricultural expansion cannot take place in isolation for the other resource concerns within the area. Increased agricultural production, through expansion, will have effects on timber availability, watershed management and fisheries and wildlife management. Therefore, the resource management policy is intended to represent an optimization of resource uses, reflected by capability and demand.

4. RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ZONES

In the development of the Plan Policy, a zoning scheme was used to divide the planning area into areas of similar intent. Resource management zones that would achieve the management intent of the plan and accommodate the broad resource objectives were identified. For each resource management zone identified, a statement is presented that clearly reflects the intent of the zone.

To graphically depict the relationship between the resource uses in the various resource management zones, a resource use / zone matrix was developed. The matrix examines each use by zone and denotes whether the particular use is permitted, restricted or prohibited.

The resource management zones to be used within the plan are listed in the following subsection.

4.1 Agriculture Zone

The Agriculture Zone includes lands which are presently utilized or considered suitable for till cropping and domestic grazing. The focus in this zone will be on activities related to sustained agricultural utilization.

4.2 Multiple Use Zone

The primary goal of the Multiple Use Zone is to allow the optimal utilization of available resources. The focus in this zone will be on activities related to sustained yield timber harvesting, wildlife management, watershed management and domestic grazing.

4.3 Special Use Zone

The Special Use Zone is intended to protect steep valley walls from erosion as well as restrict use on land in river floodplains.

4.4 Resource Use / Zone Matrix

The resource use / zone matrix displays the relationships between specific resource uses and the resource management zones. At this stage of the planning process, decisions are made at the resource use level only. Resource uses are identified as being permitted, restricted or not permitted within each resource management zone. Those resource uses with a restricted notation will be examined more closely at the activity level in Plan Design.

Table 1 RESOURCE USE / ZONE MATRIX - JEAN D'OR PRAIRIE AREA

USES / ZONE	Agriculture	Multiple use	Special Use
Recreation	/	/	R
Hunting	/	/	/
Fishing	/	/	/
Trapping	/	/	/
Timber Harvesting	R	/	R
Till Cropping	/	X	X
Domestic Grazing	/	R	X
Petroleum and Natural Gas Exploration & Development	/	/	/
Coal and Mineral Exploration & Development	/	/	R
Sand and Gravel Exploration & Development	/	/	/
Transportation and Utility corridors	/	/	/
Commercial Development	/	R	X
Residential	/	X	X
Industrial Development	/	R	X

/ - Permitted - Resource uses that will be permitted under normal guidelines and regulations.

X - Not Permitted - Resource uses that are not compatible with the resource management zone and are therefore, not permitted.

R - Restricted - 1. Resource uses that may be permitted under stricter than normal guidelines and regulations;
2. Resource uses that may be permitted, but only in designated areas within the zone.
3. Not all activities of the resource use will be permitted within zone.

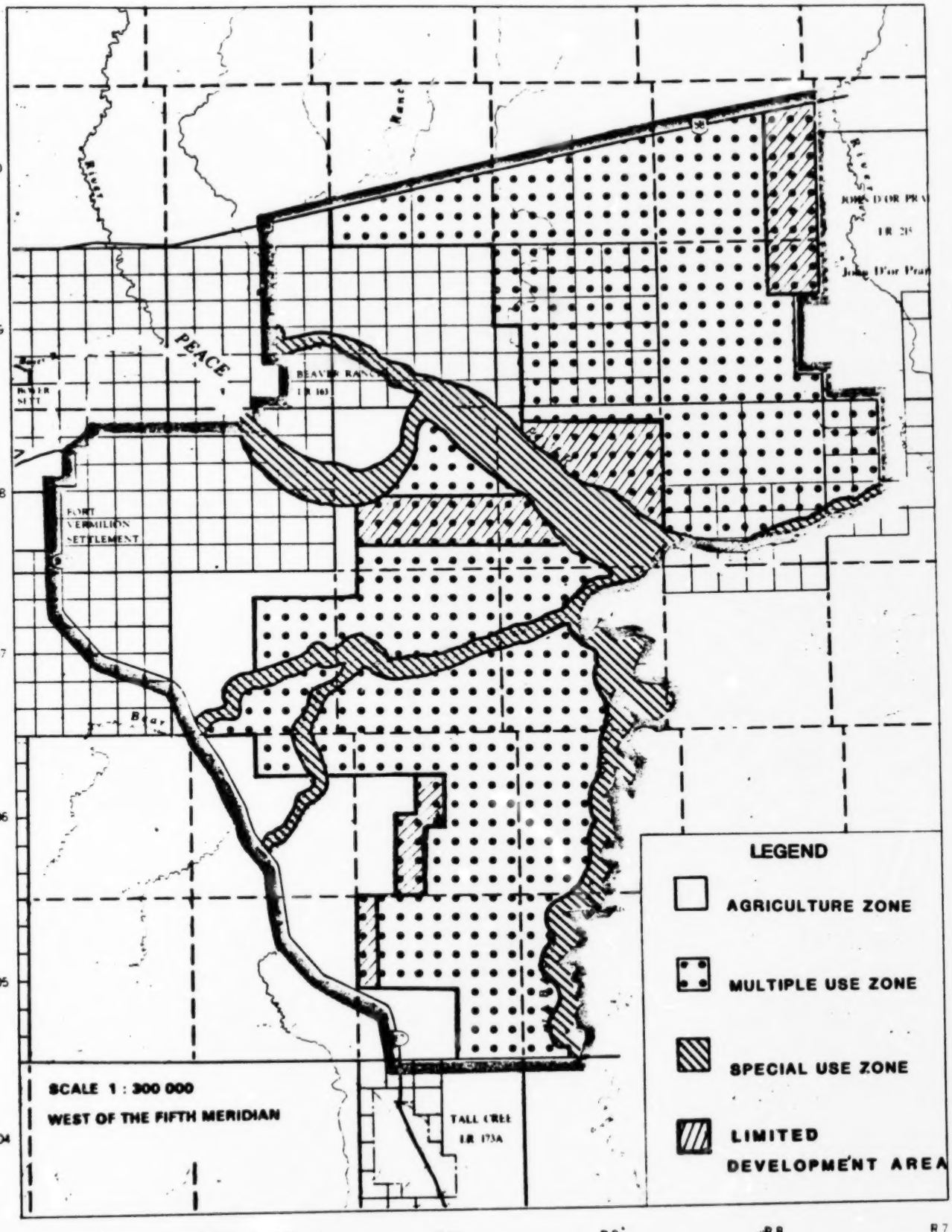
5. RESOURCE MANAGEMENT POLICY

The Resource Management Policy is the final product of the Plan Policy stage providing refined direction to the planning team, allowing commencement of Plan Design. This also acts as an interim statement of the progress made toward the Final Plan.

5.1 Zoning Configuration

The following map (Map 3) presents the zoning configuration of the Resource Management Policy for the Jean D'Or Prairie area. As indicated on the map, the management intent of the planning area can be achieved by three zones: 1) Multiple Use Zone, 2) Agriculture Zone and 3) Special Use Zone.

The Multiple Use Zone is an area to be managed for the optimum use of all resource with focus on timber harvesting, wildlife and watershed management and domestic grazing. Areas within this zone have been identified as limited development areas (see Map 3) and are intended to provide for further agricultural expansion pending disposition or sale of the available lands suitable for agricultural production in the Agriculture Zone. These limited development areas will be examined more closely at the Plan Design stage of the planning process.



Map 3 RESOURCE MANAGEMENT POLICY OF JEAN D'OR PRAIRIE

The Agriculture Zone is an area in which public land will be made available for agricultural expansion either by sale or other forms of disposition. It is intended that this area be utilized to its fullest extent prior to any expansion into the limited development areas of the Multiple Use Zone.

Finally, the Special Use Zone is intended to protect steep valley walls from erosion, as well as restrict use on the land in river floodplains. This zone consists of the fluvial ecosections 8F1, 8F2 and 8F3 identified in the Jean D'Or Prairie Ecological Land Classification and Evaluation. The 8F1 ecosection includes streams, river, banks and floodplains while ecosection 8F2 and 8F3 include terraces and islands.

6. CONCLUSION

This document will provide the planning team of resource managers with the direction required to advance to the Plan Design stage of the planning process.

The draft plan will include further refinement of the resource objectives, development of resource management guidelines, and a discussion of the implementation and review mechanisms for the plan.